

# Town Council

## STAFF REPORT

### Department of Engineering



<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	April 15, 2016
<b>PROJECT:</b>	FY 2016 Capital Project Update – Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• May River Streetscape: Final Phase</li></ul>
<b>PROJECT MANAGER:</b>	John Hutchinson, Capital Improvement Program Manager

#### MAY RIVER STREETScape: FINAL PHASE

**Scope:** Adopted in 2006 by the Town of Bluffton Town Council, the Old Town Master Plan presents a comprehensive set of guiding design principles and urban design directives. It further provides policy guidance for the Bluffton Historic District. In this regard, the Old Town Master Plan advises that the Town create walkable streets, enhance the tree canopy, and manage stormwater runoff by mimicking natural stormwater systems. It provides that the Town and community craft unique projects with the intent of preserving and enhancing the Bluffton character.

Improvement of the May River Road corridor is an implementation step of the Old Town Master Plan, supported by the Comprehensive Plan and the SC 46 Corridor Management Plan. The final phase of the May River Streetscape will improve approximately 2,875 linear feet of May River Road, beginning at the intersection of Jennifer Court, and ending approximately 100 linear feet east of the intersection with Pin Oak Street. The addition of sidewalks, curb and gutter, on-street parking, landscaping and lighting will improve the appearance of the corridor, while increasing safety for pedestrians. With the completion of this project, pedestrian connectivity is provided from Old Town to Buck Island Road.

**Budget:** The proposed project budget is approximately \$1,950,000, including design & permitting, construction, construction management, and landscaping.

**Schedule:** See Attachment 1

**Previous Status:** Line 16, *SCDOT Final Plan Review/Permitting*, and Line 26, *Award Contract to Appraiser and Review Appraiser*. SCDOT review comments for the project were received on February 11, 2016 and February 17, 2016. Staff has been in communication with the SCDOT regarding several comments for clarification, and expects to resubmit the plans the week of February 29, 2016. Easement acquisition services, which includes appraisals and review appraisals, is to be discussed at the March 8, 2016 Town Council meeting. Next steps are to award the contract for appraisal and acquisition services, and to receive SCDOT authorization to formally approach property owners for easement acquisition.

**Current Status:** Contract was awarded to Easement Acquisition consultant at the March Town Council Meeting. Contract has been finalized and signed by both parties. There will be a coordinated effort between the Town's attorney and the consultant to acquire the easements with Town Staff oversight. The plans were resubmitted to SCDOT on March 19<sup>th</sup> and comments were received on March 30<sup>th</sup>. The comments will be addressed and resubmitted along with the Design Exception Report as soon as possible. As of the drafting of this report, Town Staff are scheduled to meet in Columbia on Tuesday, April 5 with SCDOT to review status of the final approval of the plans and work with SCDOT staff on the status Local Public Agency checklist. We anticipate having approval from SCDOT to move forward with easement acquisition process by mid-April. In order to maintain our current projected schedule for construction start, we will need to intensify our focus on the acquisition of the easements.

MAY RIVER ROAD STREETSCAPE - PHASE 2  
DESIGN, PERMITTING AND CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE  
DATE: 1/17/16

Attachment 1

